

(As Amended)

02-R-0363

A RESOLUTION
BY COUNCILMEMBER FELICIA MOORE

A RESOLUTION URGING THE FULTON COUNTY
COMMISSION AND THE FULTON COUNTY TAX
COMMISSIONER TO TERMINATE THE PRACTICE OF
SELLING TAX LIENS AGAINST OWNER-OCCUPIED
RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO THIRD PARTIES AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 48-3-19 authorizes the purchase of delinquent ad valorem tax liens

by third parties and further provides that said third parties may charge the owner of the property, the amount paid for the tax lien as well as interest thereon in an amount not to exceed 12 percent per annum plus other costs incurred for the release or satisfaction of said lien; and

WHEREAS, if the homeowner fails to pay the amount required by the purchaser of the lien, the lien purchaser may request that the property be sold at a tax sale; and

WHEREAS, homeowners are raising many complaints of abuse by the lien purchasers pursuant to this process, including but not limited to harassment, charging extremely high interest rates and the inability to contact some lien purchasers; and

WHEREAS, elderly residents are particularly vulnerable to these unscrupulous and abusive practices; and

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2002, the DeKalb County Commission, at the urging of DeKalb Tax Commissioner Tom Scott, passed a resolution to end the practice of selling tax liens against owner-occupied residential properties; and

WHEREAS, the Council and Mayor of the City of Atlanta would request the Fulton County Commission and Tax Commissioner to do the same.

**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA HEREBY
RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

The Fulton County Commission and the Fulton County Tax Commissioner are hereby urged to terminate the practice of selling tax liens against owner-occupied residential properties to third party lien purchasers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is not intended for the foregoing request to apply to delinquent commercial or residential rental properties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fulton County Commission and the Fulton County Tax Commissioner are hereby urged not to sell or transfer any tax liens to individuals or entities who own tax delinquent property located within the City of Atlanta in Fulton County.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to each member of the Fulton County Commission and to Dr Arthur Ferdinand, the Fulton County Tax Commissioner.